Listing of Claims:

1   1.   (previously presented) A system for providing self-installing
2 software components for network service execution, comprising:
3   a service host system to store network service software for a service and
4 installation software for the network service software, wherein the installation
5 software comprises an installation predicate object and a helper object; and
6   a requesting system to communicate with the service host system through
7 a basic communication framework, comprising:
8   a checking mechanism to download and execute the installation
9 predicate object, wherein the installation predicate object comprises code to verify
10 prerequisites against a runtime environment through the service host system by
11 testing hardware, peripherals, and software components of the requesting system
12 and to generate a list of missing components when at least one required
13 component for installation of the network service software is missing;
14   a helper mechanism to download and execute the helper object,
15 wherein the helper object comprises code to obtain the at least one required
16 component when missing and to install the network service software using the
17 installation software; and
18   a service mechanism to provide a service of equivalent
19 functionality to the service of the service host system to one or more other
20 requesting systems that is independent of the service host system.

1   2.   (previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, further
2 comprising:
3   a set of standardized method definitions provided through a public
4 interface defined on the network service software.

1   3.   (previously presented) A system according to Claim 2, wherein the
2 standardized method definitions are selected from the group comprising at least
3 one of an availability method, environment verification method, code retrieval
4 method, and an update method.

1   4.   (previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the
2   network service software is updated through the service host system.

1   5.   (previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the
2   installation predicate object verifies that the runtime environment satisfies
3   prerequisites necessary to install and execute the network service software.

1   6.   (previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the
2   installation predicate object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for
3   execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

1   Claim 7 (canceled).

1   8.   (previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the
2   helper object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a
3   managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

1   9.   (previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, further
2   comprising:
3   an update object defined on the service host system to identify, retrieve
4   and install any updates to the network service software.

1   10.   (original) A system according to Claim 9, wherein the update
2   object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a
3   managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

1   Claim 11 (canceled).

1   Claim 12 (canceled).

1   13.   (original) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the basic
2   communication framework comprises a Java operating environment.

1   14.   (previously presented) A method for providing self-installing

2 software components for network service execution, comprising:

3   storing on a service host system, network service software for a service

4 and installation software for the network service software, wherein the installation

5 software comprises an installation predicate object and a helper object; and

6   establishing a basic communication framework between the service host

7 system and a requesting system, comprising:

8   executing by the requesting system, the installation predicate

9 object comprising code to verify prerequisites against a runtime environment

10 through the service host system by testing hardware, peripherals, and software

11 components of the requesting system and to generate a list of missing components

12 when at least one required component for installation of the network service

13 software is missing;

14   executing by the requesting system, the helper object comprising

15 code to obtain the at least one required component when missing and to install on

16 the requesting system, the network service software using the installation

17 software; and

18   providing by the requesting system, a service of equivalent

19 functionality to the service of the service host system to one or more other

20 requesting systems that is independent of the service host system.

1   15.   (previously presented) A method according to Claim 14, further

2 comprising:

3   specifying a set of standardized method definitions provided through a

4 public interface defined on the network service software.

1   16.   (previously presented) A method according to Claim 15, further

2 comprising:

3   defining the standardized method definitions selected from the group

4 comprising at least one of an availability method, environment verification

5 method, code retrieval method, and an update method.

1   17.   (previously presented) A method according to Claim 14, further

2 comprising:

3   updating the network service software through the service host system.

1   18.   (previously presented) A method according to Claim 14, further

2 comprising:

3   verifying that the runtime environment satisfies the prerequisites necessary

4 to install and execute the network service software.

1   19.   (previously presented) A method according to Claim 14, wherein

2 the installation predicate object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for

3 execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

1   Claim 20 (canceled).

1   21.   (previously presented) A method according to Claim 14, wherein

2 the helper object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution

3 within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

1   22.   (previously presented) A method according to Claim 14, further

2 comprising:

3   defining an update object on the service host system to identify, retrieve

4 and install any updates to the network service software.

1   23.   (original) A method according to Claim 22, wherein the update

2 object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a

3 managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

1   Claim 24 (canceled).

1   Claim 25 (canceled).

1   26.   (original) A method according to Claim 14, wherein the basic

2 communication framework comprises a Java operating environment.

1   27.   (original) A computer-readable storage medium holding code for
2   performing the method according to Claim 14.

1   28.   (previously presented) An apparatus for providing self-installing
2   software components for network service execution, comprising:
3   means for storing on a service host system, network service software for a
4   service and installation software for the network service software, wherein the
5   installation software comprises an installation predicate object and a helper
6   object; and
7   means for establishing a basic communication framework between the
8   service host system and a requesting system, comprising:
9   means for executing by the requesting system, the installation
10   predicate object comprising code to verify prerequisites against a runtime
11   environment through the service host system by testing hardware, peripherals, and
12   software components of the requesting system and to generate a list of missing
13   components when at least one required component for installation of the network
14   service software is missing;
15   means for executing by the requesting system, the helper object
16   comprising code to obtain the at least one required component when missing and
17   to install on the requesting system, the network service software using the
18   installation software; and
19   means for providing by the requesting system, a service of equivalent
20   functionality to the service of the service host system to one or more other
21   requesting systems that is independent of the service host system.